REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 18 and 36 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 18 being independent.

Independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art.

Initially, Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 18 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In response to this rejection, Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to even more clearly set forth the input manipulation request. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, 18 and 36 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Negishi '278 in view of Birkler '103. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicants' invention relates to an information processing method for maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes. The method includes, as amended, a holding step of holding the shared data, wherein shared data include a plurality of items, and mode information is provided for each of the plurality of items, an input step of inputting an input manipulation request generated by its own client process, and the determining step of determining a mode, based on the mode information corresponding to an item which is a target of the input manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode, a second mode, and a third mode. In addition, a processing step executes a process corresponding to the input manipulation request input or a received manipulation request

generated by another client process. With regard to execution of the received manipulation request, the processing step includes a receiving step of receiving the received manipulation request generated by a client process other than its own client process, via a server process, and an execution of step of executing a process corresponding to the received manipulation request in order of receiving the received manipulation request. With regard to execution of the input manipulation request input in the input step, the processing step includes a sending step of sending, when the manipulation request requests a manipulation of the shared data, request information that represents the input manipulation request to the server process, a reception step of receiving response information corresponding to the request information sent in the sending step, from the server process, and a manipulation execution step of executing a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the input manipulation request or the response information received in the reception step.

Claim 1 further recites that, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the first mode, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in response to the input manipulation request, and the sending step sends the request information indicating the input manipulation request to the server process. In a case where it is determined that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request input is the second mode, the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the input manipulation request, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data based on the input manipulation request indicated by a reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation

execution, and the shared data is manipulated in accordance with the input manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution. In a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the input manipulation request is the third mode, the sending step sends, in accordance with the manipulation request, request information that represents the input manipulation request to the server process, and the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the input manipulation request corresponding to the request information in response to reception of the reception information.

In accordance with Claim 1 of Applicants' invention, a high performance information processing method is capable of executing a process for a manipulation request generated by its own client process and a manipulation request generated by another client process.

The Negishi patent relates to a system for sharing data between two computers, e.g., computer A and computer B. With reference to Figure 2, computer A transmits a response BT or response SBT, and transmitted data can be manipulated to control a corrected order of the manipulation request, regardless of what order they are received in. Negishi uses four designations, or modes, to designate the order of the replica. As disclosed, the modes are Ordinary, Forward Flush, Backward Flush, and Two-Way Flush (column 4, lines 45-47).

In contrast to Claim 1 of Applicants' invention, however, Negishi does not teach or suggest, among other features, a step of holding the shared data, wherein the shared data includes a plurality of items, with mode information being provided for each of the plurality of items, and determining a mode, based on the mode information corresponding to an item which is a target of the manipulation request. In Negishi, when a data modification request is issued, the order of

replica in the replica updating is designated, *i.e.*, Ordinary, Forward Flush, Backward Flush and Two-Way Flush. What is more, <u>Negishi</u> is not to read to teach or suggest manipulating shared data in the manner set forth in the first, second and third modes of Claim 1. For example, in the second and third modes a sending step sends the request information to the server process in response to an input manipulation request, and shared data is manipulated based on the input manipulation request when the reception information is received. In <u>Negishi</u>, on the other hand, it is merely the execution order of the manipulation request--and not the timing-- that is described.

The secondary citation to <u>Birkler</u> relates to an instant messaging system and is relied on for a teaching of using a request/response protocol implementation and a time out method. <u>Birkler</u> fails, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in <u>Negishi</u> as discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1. Therefore, the proposed combination of art, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicants' invention.

Claim 18 relates to an information processing apparatus and corresponds substantially to Claim 1. Claim 18 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art for the same reasons discussed above.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 18 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 6, 8, 9, 11 and 36 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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